

Message Text

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ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 EA-07 EUR-12 SSO-00 ORM-02

PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 ITFE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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R 292240Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

JCR SAME SAN TH ILAND

CINCPAC

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y/ADDRESSEE ADDED

E.O. 11652:GDS

SUBJECT: AMERICANS IN VIETNAM

REFS: A) BANGKOK 22638; B) VIENTIANE 6052; C1 GENEVA 8162

1. UNHCR NEW YORK SAYS REPORT OF "TWENTY"(REF A) RESULTS

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FROM NEWSMAN'S GARBLE AND IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

2. RE PRESS GUIDANCE, WE ASSUME THERE WILL BE SOME PRESS INTEREST IN THE GROUP WHEN IT ARRIVES IN BANGKOK AND POSSIBLY IN VIENTIANE. WE SEE NO NEED TO RESTRICT PRESS ACCESS BUT HOPE THIS CAN BE KEPT TO MINIMUM CONSISTENT WITH GROUP'S NEED TO DECOMPRESS AFTER LONG ISOLATION, AND IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE HEALTH PROBLEMS. SUGGEST PRESS POLICY BE COORDINATED WITH DRS. BAILEY AND KING OF CMA, AND WITH FORD FOUNDATION OFFICE.

3. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE HERE IN RESPONDE TO QUESTIONS FOLLOWING RELEASE: BEGIN TEXT.
QUESTION: DO YOU THINK THE RELEASE OF AMERICANS BEING HELD IN VIETNAM AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF 1600 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM GUAM ON THE PART OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES CONSTITUTES A MEANINGFUL SIGNAL INDICATING VIETNAMESE INTEREST IN NORMALIZING THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH US?

ANSWER: WE WELCOME THE NEWS OF THE RELEASE OF SOME OF THE AMERICANS WHO WERE BEING HELD IN VIETNAM, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR BEING REUNITED QUICKLY WITH THEIR FAMILIES. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE APPROXIMATELY FIFTY OTHER AMERICANS WHO REMAIN IN SAIGON. MANY OF THEM WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE BUT THUS FAR HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO SO. WE WOULD HOPE THAT HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS WOULD ALSO PREVAIL HERE AND ENABLE THESE PEOPLE TO LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

-- WITH REGARD TO THE REFUGEES WHO WANTED TO RETURN BY SHIP FROM GUAM, WE HAVE NOTED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE AUTHORITIES IN VIETNAM. WE ARE GLAD THAT THEY ARRIVED SAFELY AND NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE REUNITED WITH THEIR FAMILIES AS THEY SO URGENTLY DESIRED.

-- AS WE HAVE SAID, OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD VIETNAM WILL CONTINUE TO BE GUIDED BY THEIR ACTIONS TOWARD US AND TOWARD THEIR NEIGHBORS. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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